

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GOG WELCOMES ADOPTION OF UNSC RESOLUTION

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
THE EVENING OF AUTUST 25, AFTER A MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE WHICH WAS BRIEFED ON THE FINAL DEBATE AND THE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

2. BEGIN QUOTE. GREECE WELCOMES WITH SATISFACTION THE DECISION OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BY THIS DECISION, THE WORLD BODY RECOMMENDS
THAT TENSION IN OUR AREA BE REDUCED SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE
RESUMED FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF OUR DIFFERENCE WITH
TURKEY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT ALSO STRESSES THE USEFULNESS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE. IT WAS PRECISELY THE AIM
OF GREECE'S RECOURSE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO AVERT A BREACH
OF THE PEACE AND TO OPEN THE WAY FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OF THE GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCE. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DECLARES IT
WILL RESPOND TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL--
ALL THE MORE SO SINCE IT HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT
THESE DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE SETTLED IN GOOD FAITH AND WITH
MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. BESIDES, I HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED
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THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER ASSERTED --AS TURKEY CLAIMS --

THAT THE AEGEAN IS A CLOSED GREEK SEA. NOR DOES THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT DENY THAT IN THIS SEA, TURKEY, AS A COASTAL COUNTRY,
ALSO HAS CERTAIN RIGHTS. I HOPE THAT TURKEY ALSO WILL COMPLY WITH
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SO THAT AN HONEST AND
SERIOUS DIALOGUE MAY BECOME POSSIBLE. GREECE IS READY TO HOLD
THIS AT ANY LEVEL. THIS MOMENT IS HISTORICALLY CRUCIAL FOR BOTH
PEOPLES. IT MAY MARK THE STARTING POINT FOR THEIR PEACEFUL
LIVING TOGETHER AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION. BUT IT MAY ALSO
MARK THE STARTING POINT OF IRREPARABLE DISASTERS IF THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, LED ASTRAY BY INTERNAL
ANTAGONISM AND CHAUVINISTIC PREJUDICES, FAILS TO BECOME AWARE OF
ITS GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES. END QUOTE.
KUBISCH

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